

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN NEW YORK 02210 SENT ACTION SECSTATE
INFO AMMAN, BEIRUT, CAIRO, DAMASCUS, JERUSALEM, TEL AVIV
31 MAY 78

QUOTE UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 02210

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, MARR, UNSC, IS, SY, XF

SUBJECT: UNDOF: U.S. STATEMENT ON 9TH EXTENSION BY SC,
MAY 31, 1978

1. FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR
LEONARD AT SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MAY 31, 1978,
EXTENDING MANDATE OF UNDOF UNTIL NOVEMBER 30, 1978.

2. BEGIN TEXT: FOUR YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE UNITED
NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE WAS ESTABLISHED AND
ITS FIRST UNITS SENT TO THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. THE PURPOSE
OF THE FORCE WAS TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN CONDITIONS OF
CALM IN THE AREA SO THAT THE SEARCH FOR PEACE COULD BE
PURSUED WITH VIGOR AND PERSEVERANCE. HARD
PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN ENCOUNTERED IN THAT SEARCH, AND
SERIOUS OBSTACLES REMAIN. BUT IT IS TO UNDOF'S GREAT
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CREDIT THAT EFFORTS TO REACH A LASTING SETTLEMENT CON-
TINUE IN A STABLE ATMOSPHERE.

UNDOF'S SUCCESS IN CARRYING OUT ITS MANDATE HAS BEEN
GREATLY ASSISTED BY THE PARTIES' SCRUPULOUS OBSERVANCE
OF THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE TERMS OF THE DISENGAGE-
MENT AGREEMENT. ANOTHER CRITICAL FACTOR HAS BEEN THE

ABLE LEADERSHIP OF GENERAL HANNES PHILIPP AND THE DEDICATION OF HIS OFFICERS AND MEN. LESS OBVIOUS, BUT JUST AS IMPORTANT TO THE SUCCESS OF THE FORCE, IS THE IMPRESSIVE INSTITUTIONAL EXPERIENCE AND PROFESSIONALISM THAT THE UNITED NATIONS HAS DEVELOPED IN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS. THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND HIS OUTSTANDING STAFF HAVE BUILT UP THIS EXPERTISE, WITH THE HELP OF MANY COUNTRIES WHO HAVE OVER THE YEARS CONTRIBUTED TROOPS TO UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS. THE GOVERNMENTS WHOSE FORCES MAKE UP UNDOF -- AUSTRIA, IRAN, CANADA AND POLAND -- ARE FOLLOWING A NOBLE TRADITION. TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED MAKE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING THE IMPORTANT FORCE FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE THAT IT IS TODAY, MY GOVERNMENT PAYS SINCERE TRIBUTE.

WE ARE PLEASED THAT ISRAEL AND SYRIA HAVE ONCE AGAIN AGREED TO EXTEND THE MANDATE SUBSTANTIALLY IN ADVANCE OF ITS TERMINATION DATE. WE SEE THIS AS ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE SINCERE DESIRE FOR PEACE ON THE PART OF BOTH ISRAEL AND ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS. MY GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE PARTIES, THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL, AND ALL THOSE WHO DESIRE A JUST AND LASTING MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. WE BELIEVE FIRMLY THAT, IN THE WORDS OF PRESIDENT CARTER, "THIS MAY BE THE MOST PROPITIOUS TIME FOR A GENUINE SETTLEMENT SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE ARAB/ISRAELI CONFLICT." END TEXT.
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